

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2003

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>.

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Race/Ethnicity Requirement

CDC has notified all states of a new mandate (effective January 1, 2003) for reporting race/ethnicity. As a result, the OA has provided a race/ethnicity addendum for use with all HIV/AIDS Case Report forms. The form will be amended in the near future to reflect this new method. For more information on this requirement, contact your local health department (LHD), and by March 2003 this information will be available on the OA website.

ETR Associates Training for HIV Reporting Is Now Available

ETR Associates has revised the HIV reporting training curriculum to include information on the new race/ethnicity HIV/AIDS Case Report addendum and detailed instruction on HIV reporting procedures for health care providers and public and private laboratories.

Revised curricula will be available on March 1, 2003. Classes are two hours in length and include instruction in how and what to report, form completion, and a question and answer session. An HIV/AIDS surveillance representative from the local health department (LHD) attends to provide assistance in region-specific protocol and practices. Physicians, laboratory administrators and their staff who are responsible for communicable disease reporting are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible in order to adequately comply with the new HIV reporting requirements.

During January 2003, ETR provided seven trainings throughout the state, and nine training sessions are scheduled for February. Continuing education credits are provided to physicians, nurses, health educators and laboratory scientists. ETR's online registration and training program (the electronic version of the in-class training) is now available via the OA website. The website also provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times. In addition, ETR can provide onsite training to providers if five or more individuals will attend. To schedule training for your organization or facility, please contact Christina Alvarez by accessing the ETR link on the OA web page. Scroll down to the section titled "Special Training Needs" under the "Live Trainings" section.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff conducted site visits to three major LHDs to monitor and facilitate HIV reporting practices, and to assist in contacting and training providers and laboratories in these local health jurisdictions. OA encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff member to request a site visit or discuss any special situations that may arise. The HIV reporting training curriculum and educational materials furnished by ETR Associates will enhance provider and laboratory reporting capacities by offering tools and resources to simplify the reporting process. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) developed for providers and laboratories are available on the OA website, the FAQs are scheduled to be updated in March 2003.

By January 31, 2003, there were **10,320 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA** by 45 LHDs. This is an increase of 1,165 cases since last month's report. Most of the case reports were complete and accurate and included the last four digits of the patient's Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff. OA extends a special thanks for the challenging work performed by the LHD surveillance staff.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with HIV test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. Initial results from recent HIV test-takers (N=206) in the four survey counties indicate widespread support for non-name HIV reporting. Eighty- eight percent preferred name-to-code or code-based HIV reporting systems to name-based systems. Of those preferring a non-name system 22 percent preferred name-to-code, and 78 percent preferred a code-based system. A complete report of the findings from the “pre-implementation phase” is in progress.